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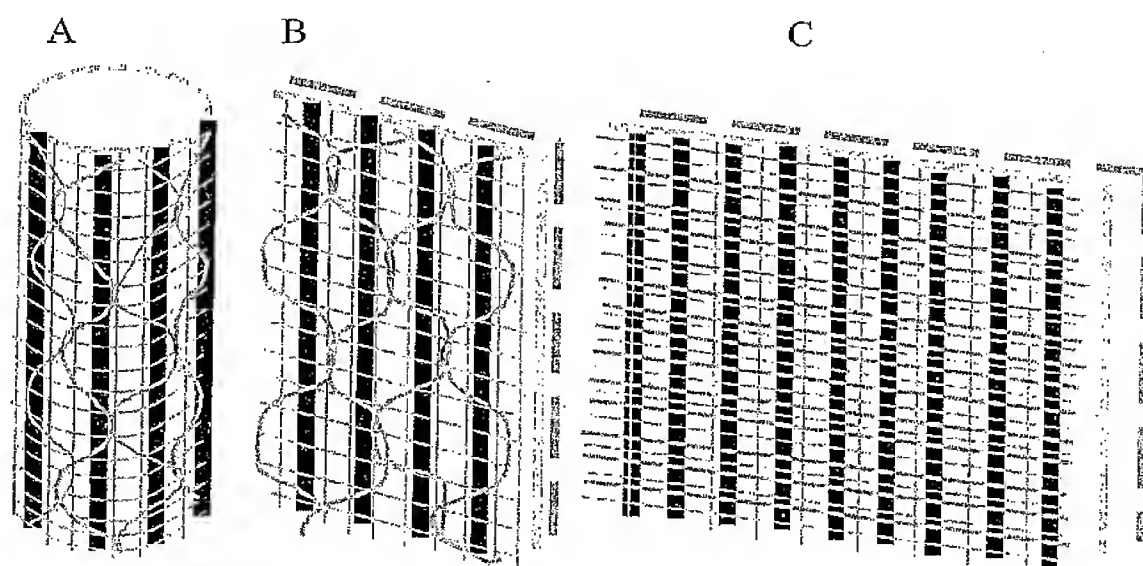
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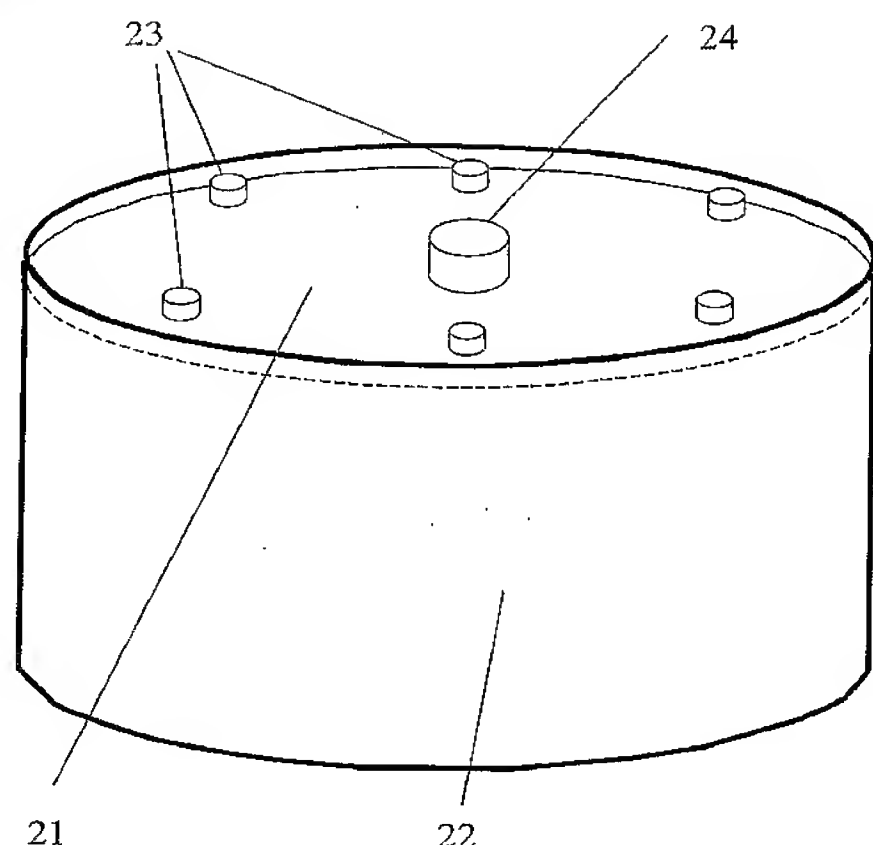
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(54) Title: WASTE AND TAILINGS DEWATERING TREATMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD



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(57) Abstract: An apparatus and method are described for reducing the liquid content of a material comprising a particulate/liquid dispersion or suspension, in particular comprising a dispersion or suspension of inorganic particles being a byproduct of mining, manufacturing or other industrial processes. The apparatus comprising a receiving zone to contain the material, at least one pair of electrodes spaced apart within the receiving zone, means to apply a potential difference thereacross and hence across the material in use to drive electrokinetic dewatering, and drainage means to enable removal of water, wherein at least one of the electrodes comprises a textile or other synthetic material at least in part associated with a conductor so as to constitute where so associated a conducting electrokinetic textile or other synthetic material. The method makes use of the apparatus, in situ or at a remote site either as a batch or continuous process.



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